

# EXPRESSING QUANTITY



When expressing quantity we need to pay attention to whether it is a COUNTABLE or UNCOUNTABLE NOUN.

## COUNTABLE NOUNS

a) They are the names of separate objects, people ... which we can count. They have both singular and plural forms:

• a/one **book** two **books**

• a/one **man** two **men**

b) They take singular or plural verb forms:

*This banana is delicious.*

*These bananas are delicious.*

## UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

a) They are the names of things we do not see as separate and which we cannot count. They have no plurals:

• **milk** • **weather** • **money**

b) They take only singular verbs:

*The weather was very hot.*

*Milk is good for you.*

c) Not used with a/an/one...



## PRACTICE

Insert **a/an** before each countable noun. Put an (x) before an uncountable noun.

- a) \_\_\_ water b) \_\_\_ egg c) \_\_\_ cheese  
d) \_\_\_ meat e) \_\_\_ banana f) \_\_\_ hamburger  
g) \_\_\_ meal h) \_\_\_ fish i) \_\_\_ tea  
j) \_\_\_ cup k) \_\_\_ sugar l) \_\_\_ apple  
m) \_\_\_ rice n) \_\_\_ bread o) \_\_\_ orange  
p) \_\_\_ sandwich q) \_\_\_ cookie r) \_\_\_ sausage



Below you have a list of some QUANTIFIERS. Some are used with countable nouns, others with uncountable ones. Some can even be used with both.

### COUNTABLES (apple/apples)

### UNCOUNTABLES (cheese)

a lot of (lots of)/ plenty of

LARGE AMOUNT

a lot of (lots of) / plenty of

a(n)/ some / \*(a) few / not many  
(\*a few = some \*few = not many)

SMALL AMOUNT

some / \*(a) little / not much  
(\*a little = some \*little = not much)

not any, no

NO AMOUNT

not any, no



### SOME

• for **AFFIRMATIVES**:

*There are some eggs.*

• for **OFFERS and REQUESTS**:

*Would you like some tea?*

• for **QUESTIONS** where the answer 'yes' is expected:

*Did you buy some eggs?*



### ANY

• for **NEGATIVES**:

*I haven't got any money to go to the restaurant.*

• or in **OPEN QUESTIONS**:

*Have you got any milk?*

(the answer can be 'yes' or 'no')



### MUCH / MANY / A LOT OF

• **MUCH/MANY** are used in **NEGATIVES**:

*We didn't buy many potatoes / I don't have much oil.*

• or in **INTERROGATIVES**:

*How much milk/how many eggs do you have?*

• **A LOT OF (LOTS OF)** is used in **AFFIRMATIVES**:

*We have got a lot of eggs.*

(NOT: *We have got many eggs*)



## PRACTICE

Look at the picture and complete the sentences with a suitable QUANTIFIER.



- Is there \_\_\_ butter left? - No, there's \_\_\_ butter.
- How \_\_\_ lemons are there? I think two.
- There aren't \_\_\_ strawberries. Do you want me to buy \_\_\_ more?
- Oh no! There isn't \_\_\_ juice. Just one carton.
- There are \_\_\_ soda cans but only \_\_\_ bottle of beer.
- There are only a \_\_\_ sausages, right? - No, there are plenty.
- We need \_\_\_ more pears. There aren't \_\_\_ left.
- There aren't \_\_\_ eggs in the fridge.
- There is \_\_\_ fruit in the fridge but only \_\_\_ vegetables.
- How \_\_\_ cheese is there? There is only \_\_\_ cheese left.